

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FLAGSTAFF AZ
0700 AM MST WED JUN 8 2011

...MONSOON AWARENESS WEEK...

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STATE OF ARIZONA AND THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY, HAS DESIGNATED JUNE 5TH THROUGH 10TH "MONSOON AWARENESS WEEK." ITS PURPOSE IS TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF LIFE-THREATENING AND DAMAGING WEATHER HAZARDS AFFECTING ARIZONA, ITS RESIDENTS, AND ITS VISITORS DURING THE NORTH AMERICAN MONSOON. OUR "MONSOON SEASON" OFFICIALLY EXTENDS FROM JUNE 15TH THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30TH, THE TIME DURING WHICH ASSOCIATED HAZARDS ARE MOST LIKELY TO OCCUR. TODAY'S TOPIC:

...FLASH FLOOD SAFETY...

FLASH FLOODS KILL 2 TO 3 ARIZONA RESIDENTS OR VISITORS EACH YEAR.

OUR SUMMERTIME THUNDERSTORMS OFTEN PRODUCE MORE RAINFALL THAN THE GROUND CAN ABSORB. IN THESE CASES, RUNOFF OCCURS AND WATER LEVELS IN WASHES AND STREAM BEDS INCREASE. FLASH FLOODING OCCURS WHEN STREAM FLOW INCREASES TO THE POINT THAT IT IS A THREAT TO LIFE AND PROPERTY. NORTHERN ARIZONA IS SUBJECTED TO BETWEEN 40 AND 50 FLASH FLOODS EACH SUMMER.

HOW CAN I SAFEGUARD MYSELF?

STAY INFORMED OF WEATHER FORECASTS AND WARNINGS.

WHEN OUTDOORS, STAY OUT OF WASHES AND STREAM BEDS EVEN UNDER SUNNY SKIES. THUNDERSTORMS PRODUCE HEAVY PRECIPITATION THAT CAN FOLLOW WATERWAYS FOR MILES AND POSE A THREAT FAR FROM THE STORM. IF CAUGHT UNAWARE BY A FLASH FLOOD, MOVE TO HIGHER GROUND IMMEDIATELY.

IF DRIVING, AND BLOCKED BY WATER OVER A ROADWAY, WAIT FOR THE WATER TO SUBSIDE OR FIND AN ALTERNATE ROUTE TO YOUR DESTINATION. DO NOT DRIVE INTO THE WATER. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW HOW DEEP THE WATER MAY BE AND SURPRISINGLY SHALLOW, FLOWING WATER CAN CARRY A VEHICLE AWAY. MOST FLASH FLOOD FATALITIES OCCUR WHEN MOTORISTS ATTEMPT TO DRIVE THROUGH FLOOD WATERS. "TURN AROUND, DONT DROWN!"

IF LIVING IN A FLOOD-PRONE AREA, DEVELOP AN EVACUATION PLAN.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON FLASH FLOODS AND FLASH FLOOD SAFETY, SEE:

WEATHER.GOV/FLAGSTAFF/SCIENCE/FLASHFLD.PHP?WFO=FGZ

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, PLEASE CONTACT:

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BE SURE TO VISIT [WEATHER.GOV/FLAGSTAFF](https://www.weather.gov/flagstaff) TO ACCESS OFFICIAL FORECASTS
AND WARNINGS FOR NORTHERN ARIZONA.

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